

Case 2860

***Pleurotoma meneghinii* Mayer, 1868 (currently *Asthenotoma meneghinii*; Mollusca, Gastropoda): proposed replacement of neotype by rediscovered lectotype**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to replace the neotype of the Upper Miocene species *Pleurotoma meneghinii* Mayer, 1868, designated in 1990, by a lectotype selected from the type series of the taxon which has been rediscovered recently in the Mayer-Eymar collection in the Naturhistorisches Museum, Basel. The neotype and proposed lectotype are conspecific. *P. meneghinii* is the type species of *Asthenotoma* Harris & Burrows, 1891, a gastropod genus (family TURRIDAE) which includes mainly species from the European Tertiary.

1. The turrid nominal species *Pleurotoma meneghinii* was established by Mayer (1868, pp. 109–110, pl. 3, fig. 3) for specimens found in the Tortonian (Upper Miocene) strata cropping out near Sassuolo, in the northern Apennines, Italy.

2. Bellardi (1875, p. 21) erected the genus *Oligotoma* and included 'Ol. *Meneghinii* (May.)' as the single species, which is thus the type by monotypy. Two years later (1877, pp. 239–240) he listed *Pleurotoma meneghinii* as a synonym of *Oligotoma tuberculata*, a turrid described by Pusch (1836, p. 522, as *Pleurotoma*) from the Badenian (Middle Miocene) Korytnica Clays of the Swietokrzyskie (Holy Cross) Mountains, southern Poland. Subsequently *Oligotoma* Bellardi was renamed *Asthenotoma* by Harris & Burrows (1891, p. 113) because of the homonymy with *Oligotoma* Westwood, 1836 (p. 373, pl. 11, figs. 2, 2a–2f; Insecta). The synonymy between *Pleurotoma meneghinii* and *P. tuberculata* proposed by Bellardi was accepted by the majority of authors (see, for example, Woodring, 1928, p. 197; Powell, 1942, p. 111; Wenz, 1943, p. 1413; Glibert, 1960, p. 64; Anderson, 1964, p. 299; Powell, 1966, p. 65; Rasmussen, 1968, p. 197; Amitrov, 1973, p. 140; Shuto, 1980, p. 44).

3. In 1987 a comparison between topotypes of *P. meneghinii* Mayer, 1868 and *P. tuberculata* Pusch, 1836 led me to believe that the two taxa were not conspecific. In order to confirm this assumption, Dr I. Dieni (Padova) and I attempted to trace the type specimens of *P. meneghinii*. The Mayer-Eymar collection, where the specimens were believed to exist, was housed until 1965 in the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule in Zürich, where Mayer was Professor of Palaeontology and curator of collections; it was then moved to the Naturhistorisches Museum in Basel, where it is housed on an unlimited loan. Unfortunately, in spite of a great deal of search, P. Jung of the Naturhistorisches Museum failed to find the specimens in the vast collection (P. Jung, written comm. to I. Dieni, 22 June 1987). Consequently, I (Gatto, 1990, p. 224, pl. 1, figs 1a,b) designated a neotype for *Pleurotoma meneghinii* in accordance with Article 75b of the Code. It was desirable to fix a type specimen

because of the doubtful identity of the alleged senior subjective synonym *P. tuberculata*, of which the types were destroyed at the beginning of the Second World War, and because of the problematic status of the genus *Asthenotoma*, of which *P. meneghinii* is the type species (see discussion in Gatto, 1990). The neotype of *P. meneghinii* was selected from topotypes preserved in the Doderlein collection of the Istituto di Paleontologia dell'Università of Modena, Italy.

4. In 1991, during a visit to the Naturhistorisches Museum, Basel, I rediscovered in the Mayer-Eymar collection the eight specimens forming the type series of *P. meneghinii*, registered as 'Po. 4918' in Mayer's original catalogue. I found two labels with the specimens. The first was very probably handwritten by Mayer ('*Pleurotoma Meneghinii* Mayer - J. de Conch. - Tortonien - Sassoulo p. Modène (2-3) - Po. 4918. - 8 Ex.); the second ('4918 - *Oligotoma tuberculata* (Pusch)') is most likely that of Bellardi who probably received the material on loan from Mayer during the preparation of his (1877) monograph on the Tertiary molluscs of northwestern Italy and returned it with his own identification (see para. 2 above). The rediscovered types of *P. meneghinii* agree in all respects with Mayer's (1868) original description, and also with the neotype designated by me in 1990. Furthermore, they strengthen the evidence that Mayer's species is not synonymous with *P. tuberculata*. I (Gatto, 1993) have redescribed the specimens and illustrated them photographically for the first time. I have also designated the specimen originally figured in 1868 by Mayer (now registered in the Basel collection as H 17365) as the lectotype of *Pleurotoma meneghinii* subject to approval by the Commission.

5. According to Article 75h of the Code the rediscovery of the original material of *Pleurotoma meneghinii* after the designation of the neotype must be referred to the Commission. Although there will be no change in the concept of the species since the neotype and lectotype are conspecific, it would be preferable that the neotype of *P. meneghinii* selected in 1990 should no longer retain its status of name-bearing type as the original material has been rediscovered and is available for study.

6. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to set aside the neotype designation for *Pleurotoma meneghinii* Mayer, 1868 made by Gatto (1990) and to confirm the lectotype designation by Gatto (1993);
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Asthenotoma* Harris & Burrows, 1891 (gender: feminine), type species by monotypy of the replaced nominal genus *Oligotoma* Bellardi, 1875, *Pleurotoma meneghinii* Mayer, 1868;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *meneghinii* Mayer, 1868, as published in the binomen *Pleurotoma meneghinii* (specific name of the type species of *Asthenotoma* Harris & Burrows, 1891) and as defined by the lectotype designated by Gatto (1993), confirmed in (1) above.

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